Amendments to the Claims

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2,~~ A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, the axial location member being a protrusion, wherein

the protrusion is square shaped.

4. (Currently Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim [[2]] 3, having a 180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2,~~ A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, the axial location member being a protrusion, wherein

the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces are sloped, defining therebetween a variable distance so that when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2,~~ A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, the axial location member being a protrusion, wherein

the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2,~~ A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, the axial location member being a protrusion, wherein

the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

9. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member;

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member is a protrusion and the positioning member is a rear surface of a recess in the insert holder inner side surface, the protrusion and the recess being shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along the longitudinal direction of the cutting insert.

10. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the protrusion is square-shaped.

11. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the cutting insert has a 180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion.

12. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces are sloped, defining therebetween a variable distance, so that when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower base jaw, respectively, are matchingly sloped.

13. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower clamping jaw, respectively, have the form of matching V-shaped grooves.

14. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower clamping jaw, respectively, have the form of matching V-shaped protrusions.

15. (Previously Added) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the protrusion is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

16. (Previously Added) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein both the first and second side surfaces of the cutting insert are provided with a protrusion.

17. (Currently Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim [[2]] 3, wherein the protrusion is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2,~~ A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; wherein

both the first and second side surfaces are provided with axial location members, each axial location member being a protrusion.

19. (Previously Added) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member formed as an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction.

20. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

21. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess.

22. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein said at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions.

23. (Previously Added) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces

with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member;

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member is an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction and the positioning member is a protrusion on the insert holder inner side surface, the axially directed recess and the protrusion being shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.

24. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

25. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 23, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess.

26. (Previously Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 23, wherein said at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions.

27. (Previously Added) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance, the sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces having first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, wherein the axial location member is shaped so as to permit insertion of the cutting insert along said longitudinal direction.

28. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein, when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view, the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

29. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

30. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

31. (Previously Added) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance, the sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces having first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member,

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member and the positioning member are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.

32. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein, when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view, the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

33. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

34. (Previously Added) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.